



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

February 2, 1999

S. 257

National Missile Defense Act of 1999

As introduced on January 20, 1999

S. 257 would state that it is U.S. policy to deploy as soon as technologically possible an effective national missile defense system capable of defending the territory of the United States against limited ballistic missile attack (whether accidental, unauthorized, or deliberate).

CBO estimates that the bill, by itself, would have no budgetary impact. Because it would not affect direct spending or receipts, pay-as-you-go procedures would not apply. Any budgetary impact would stem from separate implementing legislation or from annual authorization and appropriation bills. How the costs of implementing the policy enunciated in S. 257 would compare with costs likely to be incurred under current law would depend on the systems and time frame required by subsequent legislation.

Section 4 of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act excludes from the application of that act any legislative provisions that are necessary for national security. That exclusion might apply to the provisions of this bill. In any case, the bill contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Raymond Hall. This estimate was approved by Robert A. Sunshine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.